

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 IO-13 PM-04

SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /069 W

-----241148Z 019435 /43 S

P R 240950Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3721

INFO/SECDEF WASHDC//ASD/ISA/DSAA//PRIORITY

USCINCEUR, VAHINGEN, GE//ECJ4/7-SACD-M//PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4854

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PFOR, MASS, AF/C, MILI

SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES (FAZ)

REF: A. KINSHASA 4187; B. BRUSSELS 5042

1. A TWO-YEAR, FAZ OUTLINE REORGANIZATION PLAN PREPARED BY BELGIAN/FRENCH/ZAIRIAN STUDY GROUP WAS PRESENTED TO PRESIDENT MOBUTU AT KOLWEZI ON 16 MAY 77.

3. THE PROPOSALS ARE BROAD IN SCOPE AND GENERAL IN NATURE AND WERE PRESENTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL TO USE THE OUTLINE PLAN AS A BASIS FOR FURTHER STUDY. BRIEF SUMMARY FOLLOWS (TEXT AND TRANSLATION WILL BE POUCHED):

A. REDUCE TOTAL FAZ STRENGTH FROM 70,000 TO 35,000.

B. REORGANIZE FAZ INTO FIVE SEPARATE SERVICES.

PROPOSED STRENGTH PRESENT ESTIMATED

STRENGTH

(1) GENDARMES	10,000	36,000
(2) ARMY	16,000	18,000
(3) AIR FORCE	3,000	2,000

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(4) NAVY	1,500	800
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(5) LOGISTICAL CORPS	4,000	NON-EXISTENT
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C. REORGANIZE THE COMMAND STRUCTURE OF FAZ (READ: ELIMINATE THE CAPTAIN-GENERAL POSITION ALONG WITH STREAMLINING STAFFS AT ALL LEVELS).

D. REORGANIZE ARMY INTO THREE 4,600 INFANTRY BRIGADES TO BE

LOCATED AT KAMINA, KISANGANI AND KITONA AND ONE ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT (PANHARDS) AT MBAZA NGUNGU. STRATEGIC RESERVE TO CONSIST OF ONE AIRBORNE BRIGADE OF FOUR BATTALIONS.
E. ESTABLISH A LOGISTICAL CORPS UNDER DDN ON SAME LEVEL WITH AND COMMON TO ALL FOUR SERVICES.
F. ESTABLISH AT DDN LEVEL A PLANS OFFICE AND AN INSPECTOR GENERAL SECTION.
G. ESTABLISH A SINGLE INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.
H. INTEGRATE FOREIGN (READ: BELGIAN FOR ARMY AND STAFF AND POSSIBLY FRENCH FOR AIR FORCE) TECHNICIANS INTO DDN.
I. REORGANIZE MILITARY SCHOOL SYSTEM (CHAIN OF COMMAND AND/OR GEOGRAPHICAL) LOCATION TO ECONOMIZE ON PERSONNEL AND TO INSURE UNIFIED DOCTRINE. END SUMMARY.

3. WE ARE INFORMED THAT PRESIDENT MOBUTU AGREED IN PRINCIPLE WITH ABOVE PROPOSAL STATING, HOWEVER, THAT A 50,000 MAN FORCE IS REQUIRED. HE TOLD BABIA TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS BUT ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE HAD DIRECTED COL ELUKI OF HIS PERSONAL MILITARY STAFF TO CONDUCT A SIMILAR STUDY. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE CONCERNING ELUKI'S EFFORT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT FINAL OUTCOME, THIS INITIAL EFFORT DEMONSTRATES A REALISTIC APPROCH ON THE PART OF BABIA TO SOLVE THE MYRIAD OF PROBLEMS CURRENTLY FACING FAZ. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT BABIA'S TWO-YEAR PLAN DOES NOT ENVISAGE THE INTRODUCTION OF HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. PER REFTTEL A IT DOES, HOWEVER, ENVISION THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUGRADE PACKAGE.
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THE STUDY IS CURRENTLY ANALYZING ON A COST EFFECTIVENESS BASIS THE DETAILED ORGANIZATION FOR A FOOT MOBILE INFANTRY BRIGADE, A MOTORIZED BRIGADE (ARMORED CARS) AND A MECHANIZED BRIGADE.
CUTLER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. SHOEMAKER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KINSHA04854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770184-0999
Format: TEL
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770524/aaaaauxm.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6fc3568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KINSHASA 4187, 77 BRUSSELS 5042
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2394365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REORGANIZATION OF ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES (FAZ)
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MORG, MILI, CG
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6fc3568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009